

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 SSM-03 AID-05
/078 W

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R 121105Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7722

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IS
SUBJECT: MESHEL DISCUSSES HIS TRIP TO THE U.S. AND AGREES TO
POLITICAL TRUCE WITH MAPAM

REF: TEL AVIV 5891

1. AT A HISTADRUT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION AUGUST 11, SECRETARY GENERAL YERUHAM MESHEL DISCUSSED HIS PLANNED TRIP TO THE U.S. AND CANADA FROM AUGUST 22 TO SEPTEMBER 5 (REFTTEL). IN DISCUSSIONS OF OTHER SUBJECTS HE SOUGHT TO CALM THE GROWING RIFT WITH THE MAPAM WING OF THE HISTADRUT FOLLOWING A SERIES OF SHARP PUBLIC EXCHANGES BETWEEN HIM AND MAPAM MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU. WHILE THE STEADFASTLY REJECTED MAPAM DEMANDS THAT HISTADRUT CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY AND ACT AS "FER DE LANCE" OF THE OPPOSITION, HE ASSURED MAPAM THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BUREAU, THAT IT WILL BE ACCORDED A BIGGER ROLE IN THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEES FOR THE HISTADRUT CONVENTION SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 19-22, AND THAT IT WILL BE FULLY CONSULTED BEFORE AND

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DURING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT. THE QUESTION OF HOW MANY HISTADRUT DEPARTMENTS WOULD BE HEADED BY MAPAM MEMBERS WAS LEFT FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS.

2. IN IMITATION OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S "NO LEAK" POLICY, MESHEL TRIED TO RESTRICT EXECUTIVE

BUREAU MEMBERS FROM ATTACKING HIM IN THE PRESS, BUT RETREATED FROM THAT EFFORT IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING OPPOSITION. IN ORDER FURTHER TO REASSURE MAPAM AND TO RESTORE UNITY WITHIN THE ALIGNMENT, HE DENIED ANY RUMORED INTENTION TO INVITE THE DMC TO JOIN THE ALIGNMENT AND TO ACCORD IT SEATS IN THE NEXT EXECUTIVE BUREAU.

3. DECISIONS ON OTHER SENSITIVE ISSUES WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED PRIOR TO THE HISTADRUT CONVENTION, SUCH AS STRUCTURAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES, THE SIZE OF THE NEXT EXECUTIVE BUREAU (CURRENTLY 22 MEMBERS), THE NUMBER OF HISTADRUT DEPARTMENTS, AND THE DIRECT REPRESENTATION OF TRADE UNIONS, WORKS COUNCILS, AND LOCAL LABOR COUNCILS WERE DEFERRED UNTIL MESHEL RETURNS FROM HIS TRIP.

4. COMMENTING ON HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP, MESHEL TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT HE PLANNED TO HOLD A NUMBER OF PRESS AND T.V. INTERVIEWS IN THE U.S., PARTICULARLY ONE WITH NEWSWEEK. HE SAID HE PLANS TO COMMENT ON THE LIKUD GOVERNMENT AND ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD BECOME "A SECOND ABBA EBAN," SINCE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HE WOULD ATTACK BEGIN. HIS ANNOUNCEMENT CLEARLY DID NOT SIT WELL

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WITH SEVERAL BUREAU MEMBERS, ONE OF WHOM REMINDED HIM NOT TO FORGET THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION.

5. SEVERAL EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEMBERS COMMENTED THAT THEY EXPECTED MESHEL TO STRESS HIS REMARKABLE SUCCESS IN THE HISTADRUT ELECTION AND TO USE THE PUBLICITY WHICH HE CAN DERIVE FROM HIS TRIP TO THE U.S. FOR STRENGTHENING HIS CLAIM TO BEING A SERIOUS CANDIDATE FOR THE LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP. AS SUCH, HE WILL NOT CONFINE HIMSELF TO COMMENTING ON DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS, BUT WILL WANT TO SHOW THAT HE IS AN IMPORTANT LINK IN ISRAEL'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS. TO STRESS HIS INTERNATIONAL STATUS, HE MENTIONED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THAT HE HAD HAD A TEN MINUTE CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY VANCE DURING FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN'S RECEPTION FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY ON AUGUST 10.

LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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